

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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A STUDY OF OUR SEARCH FOR TRUTH

BY ULI KNATTERBUSCH*

After a brief period as a member of the Ancient Astronaut Society and following immersion into the contents of every Ancient Skies issue ever published, I feel compelled to share some thoughts.

Your efforts to search for truth over all these years deserve praise. Surely, your endeavors were often frustrated by circumstance or individuals. Yet, you evidently refused to drop the torch. Considering what has transpired in our "recorded history", struggles such as yours, representing the finest in mankind, allow the rest of us to maintain a measure of faith in humanity and hope.

In my view, the proposition of ancient visitations to Earth by astronauts helps to sustain our species' philosophical and theological dream whereby it is possible to learn the factual truth about the origins of humanity.

Abundant suggestions and theories have survived repeated library destructions and book burnings. But not until Erich von Däniken's first book was there something awakened in many of us, something which had been dormant. Whether or not von Däniken deserves all the credit, many reprints of traditional texts, additional books and new theories have been published since. Moreover, books on seemingly related topics have become widely available. UFOs, lost continents, pyramids, certain megalithic monuments, geomancy & ley lines, the Hermetic & Neoplatonic mysteries, sacred geometry, standards and measures, numerology, astrology, astronomy, secret societies, philosophy, certain aspects of general history, the grail, paradoxes, architecture, religion and even the human brain and sex organs are analyzed for connections to our origin. Even the fringes now receive attention, as books on taboos, the nature of evil, human monsters, witchcraft, satanism and, notably, the role of the occult in Nazism and other human convulsions fight for shelf space.

Today, average citizens of the Western World have at their disposal vast sources of relatively freely accessible information and powerful tools, equally available, for managing and communicating data. Perhaps conditions for finding many answers were never so favorable. Yet our ability to transform knowledge into wisdom appears to remain as limited as ever. I disagree with Goethe when he postulates that there are more things between heaven and Earth than the human mind may fathom. Let us refuse to be over-

whelmed, let us remain ready to explore everything and willing to accept anything.

Ancient Skies clearly mirrors the development which the latter day world-wide movement for the search of humanity's origins has undergone. Ancient Skies' points became decidedly more relevant with each new issue. But some questions were never addressed by Ancient Skies, nor were certain topical relationships overtly acknowledged.

My private research into the origins of humanity is not scientific in nature. My approach is practical and simple. Most of my conclusions are based on familiar, everyday observations of common conditions and facts. Please permit me to elaborate on two particular points.

The first point reflects the underlying paradox of attempting a seemingly hopeless task.

1. Real Truth = Appropriate Question + Correct Answer

The essence of our core enigma as to who we are and whence we originated is truth concealed. Solely one truthful explanation is accurate for each of these two appropriate questions. Although concealed, the truth does exist; hence it can be explored. Given time and persistence, the truth shall be revealed.

Let this recognition motivate us and keep up mission morale. This is necessary because a secret of such fundamental magnitude may be protected by subterfuge and layers of deception, confusion and purposeful false dogma. Searching for truth may be dangerous to one's health.

Our aspiration to find the truth must remain rational. The truth may be shocking, even dangerous. It may not conform with known human fantasy or traditional speculation. Moreover, only a minority of humans may be able to accept the facts once revealed, even if proved truthful. The ignorant majority, resisting uncomfortable revelations with anger, fear and other emotional or irrational reactions, will certainly pose additional dangers. The tasks of first finding, then preserving and finally revealing the truth are equally challenging even to the most street-wise explorers.

And so the circle approaches completion, betraying the paradox: After arduous search at great expense and final discovery of the real truth, the truth hunter(s) may not find this type of truth to be appropriate or feasible for general dissipation. The threat that the unpredictable masses, led by fundamentalist agitators, impose upon the truth-keeping few is too real to ignore. There is, in short, pressure to maintain secrecy rather than to foolishly indulge in revelation. This is how a truth's particular severity may automatically pre-

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(Continued from previous page)
clude the truth's disclosure.

At this juncture, the following scenarios among others, become thinkable:

- The truth is revealed anyway; but the powers of darkness prevail as predicted; the messengers of truth are accused of heresy and blasphemy and sentenced accordingly; the truth itself is obliterated, ridiculed or, as an entirely secondary issue, simply ignored or buried; the incident turns into a footnote of history; its true meaning eventually forgotten.

- The truth remains concealed from the many by a virtuous elite; a righteous group in possession of the truth makes the truth available to inquisitive and honorable outsiders after a necessary initiation process; dissipation occurs carefully over time for benevolent purposes and out of love for humanity; whereupon,

- the fellowship successfully withstands inevitable persecution by the powers of evil; the truth eventually trickles into the main stream and becomes accepted by the masses; the fellowship becomes powerful as the unassailable, initial guardian and successful teacher of truth; the fellowship resists abuse of its power and maintains virtue; the fellowship, its founders and members enter history as true heroes of humanity; or,

- the fellowship's defenses eventually succumb to hostile forces; the fellowship is broken up, the truth destroyed, the event deteriorates into a footnote of history.

- The truth degenerates into a tool of power an elite employs for manipulation, material advantages, influence gain or other self-serving purposes; and,

- for a long time the truth as a source of rich spoils is successfully kept secret; yet it is ultimately lost to the masses, probably by treason from within; the public outcry which inevitably follows discredits any future bearers of truth; the remaining finders and initial keepers are sentenced; or,

- the truth is successfully kept secret forever; humanity is at the mercy of skillful exploiters who derive power, riches and influence from managing the truth solely to their benefit and fiercely guarding it even against those who may independently discover it on their own; humanity as a whole derives no benefit.

- The discoverer(s) keep(s) the truth without revealing it, even hiding the fact that the truth has been found; no malice is involved; in time the truth submerges and remains concealed; the search was useless; the benefit to humanity being solely the proof that humanity is capable of finding the truth.

This limited selection of scenarios shows: Realizing the dream is just one aspect of the problem. The real problems may follow thereafter.

The second point illustrates how easily simple conclusions and practical viewpoints can initiate complex problem solving.

2. Un-natural Humanity = Natural Earth + Space Interference

Humanity's search for the origins of humanity begins and ends with humanity itself. Since we are the

the result of events whose origins we seek, most answers will be found within ourselves. Supporting evidence is desirable, indeed welcome; it may lead us to correct conclusions or prevent us from straying off the path of truth. In the end, however, all answers or assertions will face one final test: does the conclusion correspond to that which we readily observe in ourselves?

Humanity exists on Earth, hence humans contain a natural, earthly component. Examples are the sex drive, female menstruation tied to the moon cycles, the herd instinct, the seventh sense or physical survivability through consumption of the fruits of the Earth.

But humans at the same time are organisms incorporating a real, qualitative difference, an un-earthly, un-natural element which is missing in all other organisms that evidently consist solely of earthly, natural components. This ingredient foreign to Earth somehow got into us; it must have originated from somewhere outside the Earth; it is extra-terrestrial.

Language, art and science are human; not earthly, but universal. Environmental pollution, the practice of making one's planet unlivable, is characteristically human and manifestly un-natural. Intellectual concepts such as Religion (God, Immaculate Conception, Trinity, Son of God, Heaven, Purgatory), Life after Death (burial) or Compassion (caring for the indisposed) are completely un-natural, therefore human.

At this point it is perhaps fitting to remember that there seems to exist more than can accurately be expressed in the languages currently at our disposal. Even perfectly sound notions often lack eloquence when practical language is applied: For example, the sentence "Extra-terrestrial interference in humanity's evolution" in itself should not irritate even the most established scientist. Only with an understanding of "extra-terrestrial" as something akin to a soul or spirit do we enter those speculative realms verifiable science so vehemently abhors. But strictly speaking, a meteoroid colliding with Earth constitutes no less an extra-terrestrial interference than visiting ancient astronauts would.

A similar case could be made for the term "nature": Does being human mean being un-natural? Is "nature" only lifeless "terra", or "terra" with fauna and flora, or "terra" including "exclusively terrestrially evolved" humanoids, or "terra" including "interfered with evolution", or the whole physical "world", the cosmos, all of creation? There are many viewpoints on this theme, a multitude of historical references concerning the difficulty thereof and interesting inquiries into why certain things carry the names they do. Questions concerning language are, of course, essential because of language's speculative origin and precisely because language remains the primary tool by which truth is dissipated and humanity ennobled.

Except for one specific reference in Ancient Skies 17:4 concerning the Society's original publication plans and a few casual remarks buried in some issues, the subject of economics, as it relates to the search for truth in general, and to the notion of interference in humanity's evolution by extra-terrestrial intelligence in particular, is conspicuously absent. After all, we inquire into the truth about our origin presuming to obtain insights into why we live the way we do today. Did the interference, if there was any, really intend to engineer imbalance without harmony, a humanity which seems to Earth what cancer is to humanity? Or are we simply not yet sophisticated enough to perceive the economic balance and scale, the master plan, as it were?

As to the search for truth and the successful mass dissipation thereof, economics of scale are
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indeed crucial, as one particular Hollywood director has demonstrated with a number of films, some of which were seen by millions around the world, and all of which together may have done even more to foster understanding into the questions referenced to herein than Erich von Däniken ever could have. Regretfully, purely economic reasons help explain some of the established scientists' negative reactions to the Society's and von Däniken's theories. And let us never forget that successfully negotiating the path to truth may demand the ultimate price.

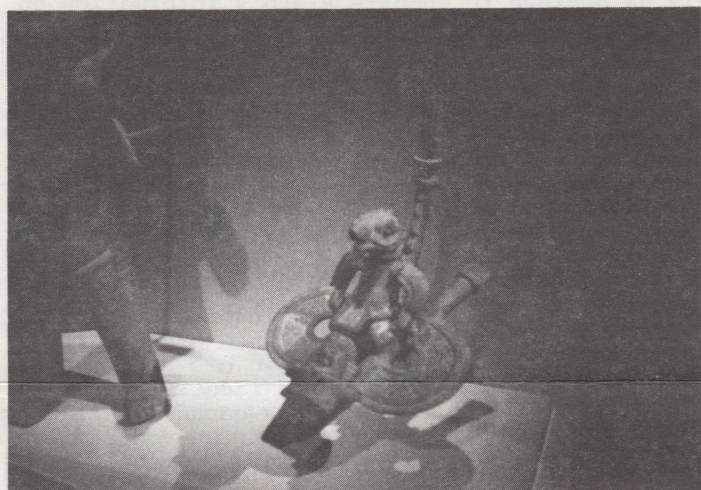
There is one truth only. It is indestructible. It is knowable. It shall be revealed.

Good luck for your search, may it continue safely and end successfully!

MORE ON THE ANCIENT HOVERCRAFT

In my article in Ancient Skies 19:6 I described a pre-Columbian art object as an accurate model of a Ground Effect Machine (G.E.M.), or hovercraft. The one foot long object, which was displayed in November, 1992 at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco, was labelled as a "flute" from the Vera Cruz, Mexico Culture dated to about 200 AD.

I have since been able to obtain a photograph of the object, which is reproduced in this column, and you can see the twin booms held in a shallow vee by a platform where the pilot sits. Note the half circle wings on each side of the booms, with a large diameter hole in the middle of each, which are used on ducted aircraft to enable air to be sucked in by propellers and blown downward. Note also the "scorpion tail" which creates drag to slow the vehicle when it is lifted up and if bent to the right or left, would steer the craft. Vaughn M. Greene, 548 Elm Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066 USA.



UP-COMING CONFERENCES

July 2,3,4, 1993. MUFON 1993 International UFO Symposium, Hyatt Richmond Hotel, Richmond, Virginia. Info: Mark E. Blashak, P.O.Box 207, Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103.

July 26-August 2, 1993. International Crop Circles Conference, Stonehenge, England. Power Places Tours & Conferences: (800) 234-8687 or (714) 497-5138. October 9-10, 1993. John White's The UFO Experience Conference, Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. Info: John W. White, 60 Pound Ridge Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410.

The Day the Gods Died, by Walter Ernsting, written in co-operation with Erich von Däniken, is available in a limited German Edition from Chris Zweiacher, Hinterhagweg 18, CH-5722 Granichen, Switzerland.

DR. MATEST M. AGREST (former Soviet scientist) WILL SPEAK AT THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY'S 20th ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONFERENCE AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, USA, AUGUST 1-5, 1993

Dr. Agrest, a PhD in physics and mathematics, was the first scientist to advance the theory that the Earth had been visited in pre-historic times by intelligent beings from outer space. In 1959, Dr. Agrest startled his colleagues in the Soviet Union with his conclusion that the gigantic terrace at Baalbek in Lebanon had been used by extraterrestrials as a launch site for space vehicles and that the destruction of the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was caused by a nuclear blast. Dr. Agrest has been described by Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov as the doyen of the ancient astronaut theory. All the early writers in our field, including Jacques Bergier, Erich von Daniken, W. Raymond Drake, Andrew Tomas and others have referred to the theories of Dr. Agrest. Other speakers at the Conference are now confirmed as follows:

ERICH von DANIKEN
GENE M. PHILLIPS
ANDREW TOMAS
GEORGE T. SASSOON
VINCENT DIPIETRO
BRAD STEIGER
SHERRY HANSEN STEIGER
WALTER HAIN
GERARDO LEVET
ALFRED D. BIELEK

DR. PASQUAL S. SCHIEVELLA
DR. JOHANNES FIEBAG
PETER KRASSA
WALTER J. LANGBEIN
RUDOLF ECKHARDT
RICHARD T. CROWE
DAVID FASOLD
DONALD W. PATTEN
SAMUEL R. WINDSOR
ULRICH DOPATKA, M/C

Each lecture will be followed by an audience participation question and answer session. All lectures will be presented in English with no translation service. Some lectures will be slide illustrated.

The Conference Registration Fee is US\$150 per person, which includes admission to all lectures (five sessions), the Gala Buffet Banquet, the Hotel's Show "Legends in Concert", and the Hotel's Antique Auto Collection.

The Imperial Palace Hotel has extended a special room rate of US\$45 per night, plus tax, for single or double. Extra persons (more than two) are US\$12 each per night, plus tax. A special Reservation Form will be sent to all persons registering for the Conference.

American Airlines is the Official Airline for the Conference. Special discounted air fares are available to persons in the United States and Canada who fly to and from the Conference on American between July 26 and August 10, 1993. For information, fares and ticketing, contact Gary Haverkamp, DER Travel Service Inc., 9501 W. Devon Ave., Rosemont, Illinois 60018-4132. Tel. 708-692-4141, or 800-782-2424. Fax 708-692-4506.

An optional sightseeing tour of Las Vegas has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon after the close of the Conference. The price for the four hour tour is US\$20 per person. Reservations should be made directly with Gary Haverkamp of DER Travel.

A Conference Brochure is being sent to all members with this issue of Ancient Skies which sets forth the detailed schedule of events showing the times of each speaker's presentation. There are five lecture sessions, Monday morning, Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon, and Wednesday morning. Tickets may be purchased separately for each session at US\$20 each, for the Hotel's Show at US\$20 per person and for the Gala Buffet Banquet at US\$30 per person. You must register by July 15, 1993 to attend the Show and Banquet. Society Membership is not required to attend the Conference.

THE TUNGUSKA EXPLOSION REVISITED

The Chicago Tribune for January 4, 1993 reported that the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had made clear radar pictures of a rocky asteroid, named "Toutatis", which passed within 2.2 million miles of Earth on December 8, 1992. Discussing the catastrophic effect of the asteroid, had it impacted Earth, the article mentioned that some scientists believe that an asteroid three times larger than Toutatis hit the Yucatan Peninsula some 65 million years ago. The article continued:

"Despite erosion, scores of other impact craters have been found on Earth. In 1908, an incoming asteroid blew up over Siberia, flattening nearly a thousand square miles of uninhabited forest."

So, in this brief paragraph, the Chicago Tribune implies that the 1908 explosion in the Tunguska region of Siberia resulted in a crater, and states as a fact that the explosion was caused by an exploding asteroid. The truth is that there is no crater at the Tunguska explosion site and it is not known what caused the 1908 explosion. The cause has been the subject of debate among scientists ever since it happened.

On January 7, 1993 the Chicago Sun-Times printed an Associated Press article which reported on a study conducted by a scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland which concluded that the 1908 Tunguska explosion "was probably caused by a rocky asteroid, rather than an icy comet as many scientists have believed..." The study involved computer simulation which found that comets would explode too high in the sky and that an iron asteroid would hit the Earth before exploding, thus concluding that a stony asteroid would explode at an altitude of about five miles, which was the case in Siberia.

Both newspaper articles completely ignore the facts of the 1908 Tunguska explosion. First, there were many eye witnesses who reported seeing a bright, fast-moving object high in the sky and saw it stop and change directions, something that an asteroid could not have done. Further, the physical evidence at the blast site is almost identical to that produced by a high altitude nuclear blast. Also, tiny globules of glass, many containing fragments of melted metal, were found in the soil at the Tunguska site, which are similar to those found at the Trinity nuclear test blast at Alamogordo, New Mexico. (See *The Fire Came By*, by Baxter and Atkins, Doubleday & Co, New York 1976).

The conclusion is inescapable that a nuclear-powered spacecraft from another world came into the Earth's atmosphere, malfunctioned and then exploded five miles above the Siberian forest in 1908.

Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov was a member of a Soviet scientific team which investigated the Tunguska explosion. He confirmed that there is no crater at the site and he informed us that after an exhaustive study of all the evidence, the official (then Soviet) explanation of the cause of the blast is that there is no explanation!

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ATLANTIS RISEN

BY FILIP COPPENS*

So many scholars rank Plato among "the" scholars of the world, even though his writing is little more than as the scribe of Socrates. Such scholars believe, rather than think, that Plato, the Greek philosopher, was discussing an imaginary, ideal civilization, which he termed "Atlantis", rather than one that was actual, though lost. Perhaps it would have been better if it had truly been lost, because in recent times the search for this elusive land has left many frustrated and others, especially professional historians, afraid to tread the matter, fearing that their reputations would also be washed away by a floodwave, not sent by the gods to destroy the arrogant people, but because they would be considered "stupid" by their "wiser" colleagues.

Plato considered Atlantis to be important because it was a democracy, in fact, probably the first ever on Earth. This is a hard pill to swallow for scholars who believe that the Greeks established the first democracy.

Since 1964, Marcel Mestdagh, a Belgian teacher, had studied and researched the Vikings. Over the next fifteen years, he discovered a giant oval-structured civilization which encompassed the whole of Northern France, centered around the city of Sens, southeast of Paris. He discovered a definite link to the megalithic culture, in that certain numbers of megaliths in France were grouped in large blocks that pointed towards Sens, and that certain megalithic monuments in Brittany, especially those at Petit-Mont and Gavrinis, carried inscriptions which seemed to be related to the oval structures some kilometres to the East. Mestdagh was at a loss to identify the civilization, but in 1979 he decided to compare Plato's information on Atlantis with his discovery. To his surprise, if not horror, it fit. Mestdagh concluded that the Vikings, who had set out on a quest to find their motherland, had found it - Atlantis. Thus the Vikings' brutal attacks throughout Europe had a goal higher than just warfare, they were looking for their Walhalla. Through his Viking studies, Mestdagh had found Atlantis, the megalithic culture.

Mestdagh had planned to write four books on his discovery, but death intervened. Only one of his books was published by his friends posthumously. After reading the book, I discovered that Mestdagh's identification of Sens as "Poseidonis", the Atlantis capital, coincided with the "French Great Pyramid" discussed by Maurice Chatelain in his book *Our Cosmic Ancestors*. Mestdagh also identified the Gulf of Morbihan as some sort of data-cache of Atlantis' knowledge. This is supported by Erich von Daniken's discussion of the site of Gavrinis. I concluded that Atlantis was linked to, but vastly different from, the Anunnaki-based civilization of Sumer. They used different base numbers. Atlantis, and Egypt, was orientated towards the star Sirius, but the Sumerians apparently had no interest in this star. Further, Hans Rudolf Hitz has discovered that Glozel, with its infamous tablets written in proto-celtic (according to Hitz) was probably directly linked to the Atlantean civilization. Glozel was only a few miles outside the Atlantis border.

Unfortunately, most scholars have chosen to ignore Mestdagh's theory, because it conflicts with established scientific dogma and implicitly argues that ancient astronauts established a high and technical civilization on Earth in antiquity. *Mr. Coppens is the Editor of the publication *Viewed From Above* and has done much research into the relationship of various sites and cities in Europe. His book *Atlantis: Mestdagh's Theory On A Lost Civilization*, is available in English from the author at Dendermondse Steenweg 56, 9100 Sint-Niklaas, BELGIUM.